

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 17-25, and 31-34 are pending. Claims 17-25 are withdrawn. Claims 26-29 and 35 are canceled by the present amendment. Claims 8-10, 13-16, and 30 were canceled previously. Claim 1 is amended to address informalities. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for misspelling the word “rod” and for reciting “at location” rather than “at a location.” Claims 26-29 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Matsuyama (U.S. Patent Pub. 2001/0009452). Claims 33 and 34 were allowed. Claims 1-7, 11, 12, and 31-32 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 as indefinite, Claim 1 is amended in accordance with the suggestions on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 is overcome.

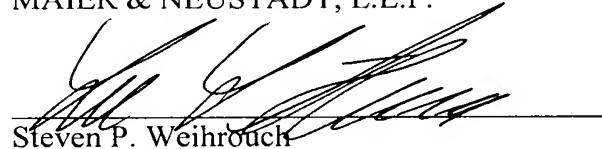
Regarding the rejection of Claims 26-29 and 35 as anticipated by Matsuyama, these claims are canceled. Accordingly, any rejection of these claims is negated.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 17-25, and 31-34 is earnestly solicited.

Should Primary Examiner Koch deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, Primary Examiner Koch is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven P. Weihrauch', is written over a horizontal line.

Steven P. Weihrauch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/09)

Lee Stepina
Registration No. 56,837